



December 19, 2007

Sirs,

The Applicant wishes to respectfully respond to the Office Action dated 10/29/2007 for application 10/680,530. The effort that was expressed in the office action is appreciated and the following responses are offered for consideration. I will be happy to discuss these at any time convenient to you and can be reached by phone at 713-449-9603 or by email at dryhou@earthlink.net (email authorization is included in this submission) and to discuss any clarifications to the claims that are required.

Summary

Petrogiannis' 632

Petrogiannis' 632 is claimed as teaching a hierarchy of multiple subdocuments and approval signatures within a single cover document. Petrogiannis' 632 is specifically limited to reproductions of a single document. All references to the master document are in the singular and all references to subsequent documents are reproductions in possibly different formats of the master document. (*The master document is then converted or reproduced into a format different from the first format to make a reproduced document. Abstract*)(*It is an object of the present invention to provide a method for creating authenticated verifiable reproductions of electronic documents, in other words for ensuring that a translated document has not been altered from the original, master document. Col 1, Line 66*) The information embedded or stored in a linked storage system (Col 3 Line 6) referenced the description of the single master document. Differentiating from the single document in various formats, the Applicant's patent application clearly states in Section 0041 "it is within the scope of this invention to maintain the master copy of the subdocument as an embedded or external object with a representation of the object in the cover document." The subdocuments are independent documents and the Applicant's